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Environment Department Receives Federal Grant
To Assess Air Pollution In Corrales

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department has been awarded \$100,000 to evaluate the health risk, if any, incurred by Corrales residents due to exposure to possible toxic air pollution. The Department proposed the project in response to Corrales-area citizens' health concerns, which they believe may relate to air pollutants.

The grant, provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will fund the first phase of a nine-month, community-based process to determine where pollutants in Corrales might come from, and what they might be. This will start with a series of public meetings, expected to begin in November, at which the community will be asked to help identify toxic air pollution concerns and issues. The community will be involved in design and implementation throughout the project.

While area citizens are particularly concerned with emissions from Intel, there are many sources of toxic air pollution in the Corrales area, including industry, cars and trucks, pesticide application to farmlands and households, and small business chemical usage. These and other sources will be inventoried and used in an air quality analysis to determine areas where each pollutant might be. The second phase of the assessment will include outdoor air monitoring and refined air quality modeling for the types of toxic air pollutants identified.

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Finally, the results will be analyzed to calculate health risks associated with exposure to the concentrations of toxic air pollution measured.

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